

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /072 W

----- 024545

R 051250Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6535

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGSC PFOR, XF, IS, US, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON PRESIDENT'S INVITATIONS
TO RABIN AND SADAT

1. SUMMARY: INITIAL ISRAELI PRESS REACTIONS TO
PRESIDENTIAL INVITATIONS TO SADAT AND RABIN
REFLECT MIXTURE OF REACTIONS, MINGLING SATISFAC-
TION RE RENEWAL OF US DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY WITH
ANXIETY ABOUT IMPLICATIONS FOR GOI OF NEW "EVEN-
HANDEDNESS" IN US POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS IN GENERAL WELCOMES PRESIDENTIAL
INVITATIONS AS SIGNALLING FRESH PHASE IN US MID EAST
DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AFTER SUSPENSION OF EGYPTIAN/
ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS BROAD RECOGNITION
OF IMPORTANCE OF BREAKING CURRENT DEADLOCK AND
MAKING PROGRESS ON DIPLOMATIC FRONT IF NEW WAR IS
TO BE PREVENTED. COMMENTATORS, HOWEVER, ARE UN-
CERTAIN AS TO WHETHER NEXT US POLICY INITIATIVES
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WILL CONCENTRATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR GENEVA
CONFERENCE AND/OR ON NEW EFFORTS TO
ATTAIN GOE-GOI INTERIM AGREEMENT.

3. MOST COMMENTATORS ANTICIPATE THAT US REASSESSMENT WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE RABIN-FORD MEETING TAKES PLACE, ALTHOUGH DAVAR'S BARNEA HAS SPECULATED THAT USG WILL WITHHOLD ANNOUNCING RESULTS OF REASSESSMENT UNTIL AFTER US/ISRAELI SUMMIT IS CONCLUDED. PRESS REGARDS PRESIDENT'S INVITATIONS TO BOTH SADAT AND RABIN AS SIGNAL OF NEW "EVEN-HANDEDNESS" IN US MIDEAST POLICY. SOME WRITERS CONCLUDE THAT CLOSENESS OF GOI/US RELATIONS PRECEDING SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS APPEARS TO BE REPLACED BY MORE COMPLICATED POLITICAL REALITY. RIGHTWING MAARIV COMMENTS EDITORIALY, FOR INSTANCE, THAT PRESIDENTIAL INVITATIONS CONFIRM "NEW STAGE IN RELATIONS" IN WHICH ADMINISTRATION WILL SEEK "MORE BALANCED RELATIONSHIP" WITH ARABS AND ISRAELIS. EDITORIALIST SPECULATES AS TO WHETHER CONGRESS SUPPORTS TURN IN ADMINISTRATION POLICY. ON ALMOST WISTFUL NOTE, JERUSALEM POST, ON OTHER HAND, EXPRESSES HOPE OF MANY ISRAELIS THAT FORD-RABIN MEETING " WILL HEARALD THE END OF THE CURRENT PERIOD OF COOLNESS" IN US/ISRAELI RELATIONS.

4. COMMENTATORS ALSO HIGHLIGHT TIMING OF FORD-RABIN MEETING AFTER OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL. THEY NOTE THAT ISRAEL SHOULD EXPECT GOE TO CAPITALIZE ON CANAL OPENING TO EMPHASIZE ITS INTEREST IN MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE, AND THAT INTERNATIONAL MEDIA WILL GIVE PROMINENCE TO THIS EVENT AS SIGNAL OF EGYPTIAN GOOD INTENTIONS. FORD-RABIN MEETING THEREFORE CONFRONTS RABIN WITH CLEAR WASHINGTON EXPECTATION FOR NEW IDEAS RE RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES, AND NOT SIMPLY WITH MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SHOPPING LIST. AS HAARETZ'S MARGALIT PUTS IT, WASHINGTON WILL NOT WANT TO MEET WITH A "TENSE AND INTROVERTED PRIME MINISTER" WITHOUT NEW IDEAS. PRESS ALSO HIGHLIGHTS CURRENT GOI LINE: THAT IT WILL BE PREPARED TO COME UP
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WITH NEW IDEAS PROVIDED A) TENSION IN US-GOI RELATIONS ARE RESOLVED, PARTICULARLY ON SUPPLY MILITARY AID ISSUES AND B) USG ASKS FOR NEW IDEAS--I.E. CONCESSIONS-- FROM BOTH SIDES.
VELIOTES

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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